



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
1111 9th Street, Conference Room F
March 30, 2022

Voting Members Present: Ahmed Agyeman, Kevin Abler, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sandy Carter, Tabitha Choquette, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Bryan Huggins, Matthew Klemme, Eva Morales, Jana Shepherd, Eric Tubbs, Emily Westergaard; Marianka Pille arrived at 8:04 a.m.; Rob Barron arrived at 8:09 a.m. Participation via teleconference: Dave Arens, Adam Montufar; Jem Gong-Browne

Voting Members Absent: Charles Mercer

Ex-Officio Members Present: Aaron Johnson

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Barb Merrill

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leanne Andre, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource & Referral

Welcome

Board Chair Ahmed Agyeman called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval February Minutes

Minutes of the February 23, 2022, meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the February 2022 minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report February 2022

Deanna Bennigsdorf presented the Audit Committee report. Administrative expenses for both grants are tracking below the allowable 5% of allocated funds. School Ready and Early Childhood total expenditures are tracking on schedule for Quarter 3.

Marianka Pille arrived at 8:04 a.m.

Bennigsdorf updated members on the new one-time grants approved in December. Bremner shared the Early Childhood grants for playground improvement projects have not been completed. School Ready awardees have begun submitting invoices. Knock & Drop has fully expended their funding. Bremner has been in contact with the agencies and continues to work with them on training of the submission process.

School Ready

- FY22 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,865,988.00
- Carry Forward funds total \$337,907.95
- Total School Ready funds in FY22 budget are \$3,203,895.95
- Interest accrued through February 2022 totals \$3,399.84
- Expended School Ready funds at end of February 2022 total \$1,515,496.78
- At the end of February 2022 47% of School Ready had been expended. FY21 at end of February 2021 40% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY22 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$947,808.00
- Carry Forward funds total \$118,891.75
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY22 budget are \$1,066,699.75
- Interest accrued through February 2022 totals \$1,154.71
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of February 2022 total \$504,031.62
- At end of February 2022 47% of Early Childhood had been expended. FY21 at end of February 2021 35% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the February 2022 financials was made by Kevin Abler and seconded by Jana Shepherd. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rob Barron arrived at 8:09 a.m.

Vision and Mission Statement

Bremner presented board-approved Vision and Mission statements. The statements reflect the monthly work the board does along with Polk County ECI's investments in the community. Members were asked to keep these statements at the forefront as they begin investment reviews.

She reviewed the five result areas which guide state and Polk County ECI board's work. She reviewed investments for School Ready and Early Childhood budgets broken down by alignment and results area. School Ready investments are more open funding opportunities with Early Childhood focused on increasing quality of child care and access to quality child care.

Members discussed Polk County ECI's Vision Statement and the desire to clarify "Every Child". Should it be defined as 0 – 5? Previous board discussions simplified the statement to "Every Child" to indicate all children, even past age 5, should have the opportunity for a healthy and successful childhood. The board will review the indicators and board priorities at the April meeting and discuss changes or edits at that time.

Program Reviews by Committee

Program Meetings and Review Schedule included with today's materials. Calendar invitations have been sent for meetings which begin April 5th. Review materials are uploaded on Google Drive in FY22 folder. Each committee has a folder containing program applications for review and scoring rubric. Programs have submitted data, narrative, success story and budget via Results Scorecard.

Members were asked to review program materials and come to the review meetings with questions for program staff. Members will complete the rubric following the investment meetings and submit to Bremner by April 14th. Members were asked to reach out to Bremner or Jody Kanne if they need hard copies of the reports. Recipients of one-time funding of 6-month contracts will not be reviewed, although some of the programs have reapplied for the FY23 investment process. Applications for new funding will be reviewed.

At the April meeting board will begin to consider budgets for upcoming FY23. A 2% increase is possible though this will not be clear until the budgets go to the Governor. Members will review draft budgets at April and May meetings and approve funding at the June meeting.

Administrative Report

Bremner's full Administrative Report was included in today's materials.

- Bremner thanked members for rescheduling today's meeting.
- Beginning July 1, 2022, the Governor is merging IDPH and DHS into the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) headed by Director Garcia. The functional organization chart shows Family Wellbeing and Protection covering areas typically a part of ECI's work.
- For over 20 years, ECI has been housed within the Department of Management. The Governor and Director of the Department of Management created a MOU in February to move ECI under DHS.
- Aaron Johnson, ex officio member who sits on the State board, shared the board is communicating concerns regarding the move of the office to DHS. They are working with Director Garcia to address concerns. The State ECI Board will be working on a new Strategic Plan this year which will include discussions on their mission statement. Aaron invited members to reach out to him with any questions at ajohnsoneci@gmail.com.
- EveryStep Healthy Start, AWHONN and the Community Action network will be holding a statewide virtual learning opportunity addressing maternal mortality Monday, April 18th from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to share the opportunity with their networks.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

Leanne Andre shared consultants and trainings are continuing to meet more in-person. They continue to meet virtually when necessary.

Adjournment

Westergaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bennigsdorf seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agyeman adjourned the meeting at 8:52 a.m.